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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kenji HAYASHI et al.

Attn: PCT Branch

Application No. New U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/006736

Filed: May 26, 2006

Docket No.: 128189

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND METHOD THEREFOR

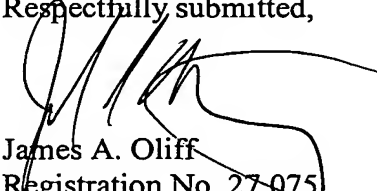
**TRANSMITTAL OF TRANSLATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS
UNDER PCT ARTICLE 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(C)(3))**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached hereto is a translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). The attached translated material replaces claims in their entirety

Respectfully submitted,


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AMENDMENT (UNDER ARTICLE 19)

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
 - a photoreceptor drum on which, in a driven state, an electrostatic latent image of an image for image formation is optically formed;
 - developing means which, in a driven state, toner-develops the electrostatic latent image formed on the photoreceptor drum;
 - transfer means for, in a driven state, transferring to an image recording medium the developed image obtained by toner development by the developing means; and
 - control means which, when instruction information for instructing formation of the developed image on a plurality of sheets of the image recording medium is inputted, controls driving of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means and the transfer means such that formation of the developed image on the plurality of sheets of the image recording medium according to the instruction information is continuously performed, and controls driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, in the course of the continuous image formation, driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means is halted at least once; and
 - a fuser, which fixes the developed image transferred to the image recording medium on the image recording medium by heat; and wherein
 - the control means controls at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, every time the number of continuously image-formed sheets reaches a prescribed number of sheets of the image recording medium, at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means is halted for a prescribed period of time, and
 - the prescribed number of sheets and the prescribed periods of time are determined as those with which image formation on the image recording medium can be continuously performed by the prescribed number of sheets without the the fuser exceeding a prescribed temperature.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
specification means for specifying a type of the image recording medium,

memory means which stores in advance the prescribed number of sheets and the prescribed period of time according to the type of the image recording medium for each type of the image recording medium, wherein

the control means carries out the control by reading out the prescribed number of sheets and the prescribed period of time according to the type of the image recording medium that has been specified by the specification means from the memory means.

5. The image forming apparatus of claim 4, wherein the type of the image recording medium is the type according to at least one of a size of the image recording medium, a thickness of the image recording medium, or a material of the image recording medium.

6. (Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a photoreceptor drum on which, in a driven state, an electrostatic latent image of an image for image formation is optically formed;

developing means which, in a driven state, toner-develops the electrostatic latent image formed on the photoreceptor drum;

transfer means for, in a driven state, transferring to an image recording medium the developed image obtained by toner development by the developing means; and

control means which, when instruction information for instructing formation of the developed image on a plurality of sheets of the image recording medium is inputted, controls driving of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means and the transfer means such that formation of the developed image on the plurality of sheets of the image recording medium according to the instruction information is continuously performed, and controls driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, in the course of the continuous image formation, driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or

the transfer means is halted at least once;

specification means for specifying whether a type of the image recording medium is a first type of predetermined regular size, or a second type of non-regular size, other than the regular size, wherein,

when the type of the image recording medium is specified to be the second type by the specification means, the control means controls driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, in the course of the continuous image formation, driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means is halted at least once.

7. The image forming apparatus of claim 4, wherein the specification means further specifies whether the type of the image recording medium is a first type of predetermined regular size, or a second type of non-regular size other than the regular size, and

the control means controls driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, in the course of the continuous image formation, driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means is halted at least once.

8. The image forming apparatus of any one of claim 4 to claim 7, further comprising inputting means for inputting information which indicates the type of the image recording medium, wherein

the specification means performs the specification on the basis of the type of the image recording medium inputted by the inputting means.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Amended) An image formation method for an image forming apparatus, comprising a photoreceptor drum on which, in a driven state, an electrostatic latent image of an image for image formation is optically formed; developing means which, in a driven state, toner-develops the electrostatic latent image formed on the photoreceptor

drum; and transfer means for, in a driven state, transferring a developed image obtained by toner development by the developing means to an image recording medium, including:

when instruction information for instructing formation of the developed image on a plurality of sheets of the image recording medium is inputted, controlling driving of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means and the transfer means such that formation of a developed image on a plurality of sheets of the image recording medium according to the instruction information is continuously performed, and controlling driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, in the course of the continuous image formation, driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means is halted at least once;

specifying whether a type of the image recording medium is a first type of predetermined regular size, or a second type of non-regular size other than the regular size, and

controlling driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, in the course of the continuous image formation, driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means is halted at least once.

11. The image formation method of claim 10, further including:

controlling at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, every time the number of continuously image-formed sheets reaches a prescribed number of sheets of the image recording medium, at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means is halted for a prescribed period of time.

12. (Cancelled)